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CITY REGION STATE NEWS

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 15, 1997 GAZETTE TELEGRAPH SECTION B

COMMENTARY

Angler catches rare blue feet while ice fishing

I went ice fishing last Saturday and would like to tell you about it.

I should point out, however, that I may have typed a word or two you don't recognize, such as *lpkfout* or even *gaaaar.*

That's because I forgot my gloves and my fingers are still frozen solid.

You may also find a confusing sentence now and then. For example: "The large salmon flashed beneath the ice, which did not detract from Mr. Gregorchuk's outstanding performance in the pole vault."

RICH TOSCHES

This is because I also forgot my hat.

The roads were icy that day, but the 45-mile drive from Colorado Springs to Elevenmile Reservoir was OK — as long as you didn't ignore the conditions and try anything foolhardy such as "steering" or "stopping."

To be honest, I chose Elevenmile Reservoir because that's where my 1974 Pinto — "original tires," he boasted — finally stopped sliding.

(History books tell us the site of present-day Pueblo was determined in much the same way.)

Driving their own vehicles were neighbors Russ and Jim. We were accompanied by our eight children. At the reservoir, the lovely children poured from the vehicles and began fighting over hats and boots and whether someone had swiped someone else's Chee-tos and whether the alleged victim had responded by yanking on the accused's hair and just who had "looked at" whom.

And as the wind howled, three adults watched this wonderful scene. Russ thought about life and its joys. Jim thought about family and the blessing of children. I couldn't stop thinking about condoms.

Soon we were on the ice, the procession stopping frequently to admire the mountain vistas and, of course, to keep pulling me back onto my feet.

My kids offered encouragement. Example: "Whoa, dad! When your head hit the ice that time it sounded like someone dropped a watermelon off a roof!"

About 800 yards offshore, Russ and Jim reviewed location tips given by ice fishing experts, calculated the winter migratory movements of trout and selected a fishing site.

Luckily for me they chose the exact spot where I had just fallen down — for the 28th time — and was now lying in a semi-coma.

When I came to, I was propped up in a folding chair. I thanked my friends for not leaving me lying on the ice, alone and unconscious, for several hours as they'd done the previous three Saturdays. They helped me up and said, "Hey! What are friends for?"

I was grateful for such good comrades and thus pretended not to notice that Russ was now wearing my boots. Also, Jim had removed my socks and was using them to keep the bait warm.

Soon, Jack Frost had stopped nipping at my toes and was actually chewing on them like a pit bull. Without calling any notice to myself, I quietly hopped a half-mile across the ice to the car and warmed them up.

Later, with rags on my feet, I rejoined the festivities. The temperature had now soared to about 40 below zero. However, because I'd eaten three helpings of a spicy Mexican bean-and-meat dish for breakfast, it felt considerably warmer. (This is known as the *wind chile factor.*)

At about 1 p.m., Jim's daughter accidentally nudged his $60 rod and reel into a hole we'd drilled through the ice. We could see the expensive gear on the bottom in about 12 feet of water.

Child's death raises questions

■ El Paso County agency to review the way abuse by girl's mother in 1996 was handled

By **Todd Hartman**/Gazette Telegraph

Three months after breaking her little girl's leg while dressing her, Crystal Terry attended a court-approved "nurturing" class to learn better parenting skills.

A social worker said Terry did well, noting that she "actively participates in role-play activities and discussions. Very attentive," the worker wrote. "No concerns."

Saturday, Terry told police, she slammed her 3-year-old's head against the wall twice because the girl "wouldn't listen to her." The blows damaged 3-year-old Sade Terry's brain beyond repair. Sunday, she was taken off a respirator and failed to breathe on her own. Doctors pronounced her dead.

With 20-year-old Crystal Terry behind bars on suspicion of felony child abuse resulting in death, family members and friends criticized county social workers for placing the child back in the custody of her mother after the broken leg episode in February.

Citing state confidentiality laws covering child-welfare cases, Barbara Drake, acting director of El Paso County's Department of Human Services, wouldn't discuss specifics about how social workers handled the Terry case or any past complaints about Sade's home environment.

But Drake said the agency took the case "very seriously" and didn't place Sade back in

See **ABUSE**/B3

WHERE TO GET HELP

Here are some places where parents seeking advice on how to deal with anger can get help:

- Colorado State University RETHINK program; 636-8920
- El Paso County's Nurturing Program For Families; 578-3210
- Parent Resource Center Inc.; 599-7772
- Marriage and Family Treatment Center; 520-1711
- Pikes Peak Family Connections; 578-3206

Teens want to know how policy would work

Mark Reis/Gazette Telegraph

Melodie Whitehead, foreground, talks during a discussion of a proposed District 11 policy Tuesday at Wasson High School. The proposal calls on the district to promote abstinence, affirm traditional marriage and discourage promiscuity — in "every aspect of student life."

McCutchen: "It shouldn't inhibit knowledge."

Hager: "... until no one is oppressed."

Spitzer: "It's (the policy) a little vague."

Tankersley: "I believe God is real."

Students discuss plan to push abstinence

By **Wendy Y. Lawton**
Gazette Telegraph

They've been raised on MTV and C-SPAN. They wear blue nail polish and button-down shirts. They are silly and serious.

They are also smart. And opinionated.

They're teen-agers — 14 Wasson High School students — who came together in one quiet classroom Tuesday to talk about two very hot topics: sex and marriage. Specifically, to talk about a proposed policy that calls on School District 11 to promote abstinence, affirm traditional marriage and discourage promiscuity — in "every aspect of student life."

During the lunch-time conversation, the students voiced some of the same views on sex as 68-year-old Will Perkins, who chairs the board of Colorado For Family Values. CFV, which stoked the debate over gay rights with its now-rejected Amendment 2, is behind a massive effort to persuade the District 11 school board to pass the policy.

Both Perkins and the students agree that teen sex and its consequences, such as pregnancy and disease, are problems. But the Wasson group — mostly female, mainly juniors and seniors, and mixed when it comes to religion and politics — was confused about the policy, expected to attract hundreds to a school board meeting tonight.

What would it mean for kids and teachers? How would it be enforced? Would it condemn kids who do have sex or who are gay?

And would it be effective? Some of the students said it's unrealistic to expect teens in the 1990s — who are urged to go on to college and get a career — to wait years until they're married to have sex. All agreed that just passing a policy won't put a stop to sex and some of its nastier side effects.

It's impossible to say whether these views and questions are representative of the D-11 student body. This was clearly not a scien-

See **TEENS**/B2

IF YOU GO

The Colorado Springs School District 11 board will hold a public hearing on revisions in the student-publications policy today from 6 to 8 p.m. in the auditorium of Wasson High School, 2115 Afton Way. The public can also comment on a separate proposal for a sexual-conduct policy.

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Teens/Students back discussion of sex

From B1

tifically drawn sample. But the Wasson group, like every other student in D-11, has a lot riding on how the policy debate turns out.

To really prevent teen AIDS and teen pregnancy, students said they need positive role models. Concerned parents willing to talk — and listen. And more chances to talk with peers about sex and how it can change your life.

"The school is not going to stop people from having sex," said 18-year-old senior Kyle Watts. "This policy may have an influence, but there is so much more that goes into it."

Funny, but that's what Will Perkins believes.

"These children are influenced by all kinds of things," Perkins said in a separate interview. "They're barraged by what I call filth from Hollywood and television. It's tough to be a kid today. It's a good thing I grew up when I did."

In recent interviews, Perkins and religious leaders have repeatedly bemoaned some of the devastating side effects that can result from premarital sex: AIDS, pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases. Students, too, believe there's a real problem out there. Too many kids are having sex too young.

Senior Jennifer Salzat thinks District 11, whose sex-education lessons are built around the idea of abstinence, does a good job of educating kids about sex. But this 18-year-old knows lots of kids — through family or school — who are having it, and some are getting pregnant.

"They can't finish high school. They can't go on to college," Salzat said. "We need to teach them the best way so they can make the most of their lives."

That's hard to do in a sex-saturated world. Just about everything in today's culture beckons with some suggestion of sex. "It's like it's normal. It's natural. It's accepted," explained 17-year-old senior Melanie Mays.

So would the proposed school policy help?

A few said it would. Others dismissed it outright. But most were left just scratching their heads.

Would it stop students from publishing stories about homosexuals in their newspapers — a topic in the Palmer High School paper that touched off the push for the policy?

Would it stop teachers from talking about birth control — or sex at all?

Would it stop counselors from discussing rape with a distraught student?

Would it even stop kids from holding hands in the halls?

Parts of the policy — like the phrase "for every aspect of student life" — need to be clearly defined.

"It's a little vague," 16-year-old sophomore Keith Spitzer said.

Said senior Krystal McCutchen: "It's a good policy. It just needs work. It shouldn't inhibit knowledge."

Students were adamant about one thing — they wouldn't support the policy if it squashed discussion about sex or made any kid feel condemned. Some kids are sexually active, some are gay. Some kids' family members or friends are gay. And lots of parents out there are divorced — not everyone's definition of a "traditional family."

"I believe God is real," said junior Darleen Tankersley. "But I'm not going to push it on you."

"We can't exclude groups of people," said junior Melodie Whitehead.

"We can't be free," explained sophomore Leslie Hager, "until no one is oppressed."

In an interview last week, Perkins said the proposal would have an effect on what students could write about and talk about and what teachers could teach. But Tuesday, he said it would not.

Stories about homosexuals and other controversial topics could still be written in school papers, Perkins said. Teachers and counselors could still talk about sex. Traditional marriage would be strictly defined as a union between a man and a woman; the policy doesn't moralize on divorce.

And yes, kids could still hold hands if the policy was ever passed.

"I'm stuffy, but I wouldn't consider holding hands in the hallway promoting sexually promiscuous activity," Perkins said.

The only effect the policy is intended to have, Perkins said, is to stop teachers and staff from openly promoting sex of any kind or pushing gay marriage.

But District 11 teachers already teach the view that no sex is the safest sex. And homosexuality is not part of those lessons. Even if the topic is brought up by a student, teachers try to respectfully steer the conversation to something else, said Bev Tarpley, the district's director of curriculum and instruction.

If that's true, Perkins said, why not have a policy that backs it up?

"This would just further support what they're doing," Perkins said. "This policy would just set a tone, a goal, an expectation."

Students said there are other ways to accomplish just that — ones they said would be more meaningful.

Convince some true role models — celebrities or local sports stars who really do abstain — to talk to kids about sex. Bring teen-agers into schools to talk about the consequences they faced from premarital sex.

And they also — surprise — really do want to talk to their parents. But getting uncomfortable moms and dads to sit down to discuss sex is tough.

So maybe kids should take the lead here, students said.

"If you want to protect yourself and your life, you have to take responsibility," Whitehead said.

Rates/Connection fees might rise

From B1

Utilities officials also said the rate hike is necessary to recover costs associated with increases in federal and state safety and environment regulations and to pay for system improvements.

The average residential bill would rise by $1 a month on use of 1,358 gallons a month.

Water costs for commercial users also would be 4 percent higher. But the average commercial bill would rise by $5.47 a month.

Also, customers would pay more to connect to the system. Increases range from $166 for a three-quarter-inch line to $2,894 for a 6-inch line within the city limits. Customers outside the city would pay even more.

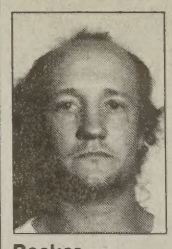
"Generally, on a nationwide basis, our water rates are higher," said Rick Avila, utilities rate analyst. "That's a function of living in a semiarid climate, and the fact we have to transport a lot of our water from collection systems on the Western Slope."

The last time Colorado Springs Utilities raised water rates was March 1, 1995. The increase averaged 3.4 percent, or 86 cents per month, for residential customers.

Rates also went up in 1994, by 3.9 percent, and in 1992, by 4.6 percent.

Utilities' three-year forecast calls for a 6 percent rate hike in 1998 and a 3 percent rise in 1999.

CRIME STOPPERS



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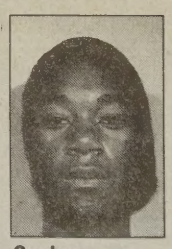

Squires

Pikes Peak Area Crime Stoppers is asking for the public's help in finding the following people for whom felony arrest warrants have been issued.

John Martin Becker, 34, is described as a white male, 5 feet 6 inches tall, 170 pounds, with brown hair and brown eyes. Becker, who also uses the name **Skip,** is being sought on a charge of parole violation on original charges of escape and felony theft.

Mark Lorenzo Squires, 21, is described as a black male, 5 feet 7 inches tall, 140 pounds, with black hair and brown eyes. Squires, who also uses the name Halfpint, is being sought on charges of unlawful flight to avoid prosecution and parole violation on original charges of second-degree assault and a crime of violence. Squires should be considered armed and dangerous.

If you have information regarding these fugitives or any serious crime, call Crime Stoppers at 634-STOP in Colorado Springs or 542-STOP in Pueblo.

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